[English]

Agreement between Himachal Pradesh and Union Government

1429. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the agreements reached by Himachal Pradesh with the Union Government prior to formation of the state have been implemented;

(b) the demands which are still pending with the Union Government; and

(c) the time by which the proposal forwarded by the State Government for levying electricity tax is likely to be considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The Government of Himachal Pradesh has made a claim for a share of 12 per cent of installed capacity to be provided free from Hydroelectric Projects located in Himachal Pradesh but where benefits are derived from other constituent states in the region and enhanced entitlement of 7.19 per cent from Bhakra Nangal and Beas Project located in Himachal Pradesh based on population. The Government of Himachal Pradesh has also instituted a suit in June, 1996 in Supreme Court of India praying for a decree in the matter. 12 per cent of installed capacity has been alloctted as free power from the Central Sector Projects of National Hydroelectric Power Corporation viz. Baira Suel (198 MW) and Chamera Stage-I (540 MW). This is based on the sharing formula applicable to hydel stations commissioned after 7.9.1990 by Central Public Sector Undertakings. The demand of the Government of Himachal Pradesh that based on population 7.19 per cent power generation from Bhakra Nangal and Beas Project should be allocated from the date of commissioning of these projects is pending before Supreme Court.

(c) The Bill has been referred to Government of India for according President's assent. The matter has been referred by this Ministry to Ministry of Law in May, 1997. After the legal opinion is received, it will be referred to Ministry of Home Affairs who will take a final decision.

Derailment of Wagons

1430. SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the derailment of wagons has been caused due to failure of Ultrasonic Flaw Detector Machines which were purchased from some private companies;

(b) if so, the total number of such machines purchased during the last three years alongwith the names of the companies and the quantity received;

(c) whether the quality of said machines manufactured by ECIL compared to other manufacturers in the private sector is excellent; and

(d) if so, the reasons for placing orders to private manufacturers for the purchase of said machines?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Total number of such machines procured was 81. These were procured from ECIL-63 Nos. Electronic and Engineering Company, Andheri, Mumbai-3 Nos, Vibronics, Mumbai-9 Nos, Madsonic Inst. Mfg. Co., Ahmedabad-4 Nos and Krautkrammer, Germany-2 Nos.

(c) and (d) These machines have been procured to a common specification laid down by Research Designs and Standards Organisation of Railways and hence the quality of machines is comparable.

Benefits to Indian Farmers

1431. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "benefits meant for indian farmers go to Bangladesh" appearing in the Indian Express dated May 15, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps proposed in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Normally no separate classification is prescribed for a commodity meant for export. Accordingly no separate classification for movement of Single Super Phosphate for export was prescribed by the Ministry of Railways. The traffic in this commodity booked to Bangladesh was charged at the prescribed tariff and Railway has not suffered any loss on this account.

This issue has also been examined by the Commercial Committee of Interchange (CCI) consisting of all the Chief Commercial Managers of Zonal Railways who have stated that no separate classification for export traffic of this commodity needs to be prescribed.

Regarding movement of Rice consignments sponsored by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) not utilised for Public Distribution System as mentioned in the news item, action has been taken to raise undercharges and realise the same.